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UNCLAS ANKARA 005807

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: GUL-SHALOM OCTOBER 5 LETTER

[1](#)1. (U) The Israeli Embassy in Ankara shared with us an unclassified facsimile copy of a letter sent September 5 from

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Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul to Israeli Foreign Minister Sylvan Shalom. In the letter, Gul expresses concern over:

- the "formidable task" facing the Coalition in Iraq;
- the "stalled" Middle East peace process;
- recent terrorist attacks against Israel;
- resumption of unilateral visits to the al-Haram ash-Sharif by non-Muslims.

Gul concludes the letter by saying that he looks forward to visiting Israel "at an opportune moment soon."

[1](#)2. (U) Embassy Ankara is transmitting an unclassified facsimile copy of Gul's letter to the Turkey desk.

EDELMAN